



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO  
GOVERNOR

## State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Baton Rouge

70804-9004

POST OFFICE BOX 94004  
(225) 342-7015

October 24, 2005

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) has revised its initial assessment of immediate and future infrastructure needs that are a direct result of Hurricane Katrina and has added needs resulting from Hurricane Rita. Attached is a summary of those needs, costs and critical issues to consider during the appropriations process. As indicated below, our request totals \$32.6 billion of which, approximately \$2.3 billion may already be available from the two initial FEMA appropriations, depending on the needs of the other impacted states.

### Category

Immediate Repairs, Replacements, Upgrades  
Critical Future Transportation Needs  
Hurricane Protection Upgrades

### Cost

\$ 5.5 Billion  
5.1 Billion  
22.0 Billion

### **Total Need**

**\$ 32.6 Billion**

It is important to note that the majority of this request focuses on hurricane protection upgrades, specifically the states levee system. There is on-going cooperation between LA DOTD and the Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) regarding the relationship between hurricane protection and coastal restoration, understanding the effort must be addressed programmatically. While we have not included a funding request from Louisiana's Department of Natural Resources for coastal restoration in this proposal, the state of Louisiana believes funding of a comprehensive coastal restoration effort like that outlined in Coast 2050 and the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) plan is critical. That request is being proposed by the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA) and the LDNR. Ultimately, we believe that hurricane protection levees and coastal restoration should be viewed together as two initiatives which are both critical to provide necessary protection for our citizens and businesses.

In addition to the \$32.6 billion in needs and upgrades, critical issues presented in our initial infrastructure assessment request have an elevated sense of urgency if southern Louisiana is to be properly rebuilt. The scope of the devastation, its impact on approximately 2 million citizens and state government's evident inability to finance these pressing needs, mandate that we urgently request an immediate influx of funding for emergency work that has already begun on vital infrastructure. This request reiterates our position that Congress considers waiving some existing federal regulations and reimbursement timelines, as outlined in the critical issues.

While the physical damage from Hurricane Katrina was largely confined to the greater New Orleans area and the southeastern portion of the state, its effects are being felt throughout Louisiana. Hurricane Rita had an equally devastating impact on the southwestern portion of the state. Together, these two hurricanes have set our infrastructure and economy back 10 to 15 years and in some areas pushed today's needs 10 years into the future.

Nearly two months after the initial impact, transportation systems in south Louisiana are stretched well beyond their capacities. The unprecedented migration of hundreds of thousands of citizens into these areas has caused gridlock on highways and streets and strained public transit services. Through meetings with local government officials, we have validated our assessment that capacity projects are essential to providing these communities with a reasonable transportation infrastructure for permanent and temporary residents.

Congress has responded to President Bush's pledge that America will rebuild New Orleans with inquiries, hearings, and statements of support. The State of Louisiana appreciates the generosity shown by the President, Congress, and the private sector, but we are in need of immediate action. The necessary work that needs to be done can only be achieved with the resources of the federal government. The Governor's office and LA DOTD are presenting a reasonable and relevant request based on careful assessment and planning that, when carefully studied, addresses the identifiable components needed to restore our transportation infrastructure and better prepare the state for future events through key transportation and hurricane protection investments.

Your full consideration of this revised request is crucial to rebuilding Louisiana and to mitigating the adverse impacts on the national economy. We will not succeed without your full and expeditious support. The level of hope and enthusiasm of our citizens is dependant upon your success in delivering the resources needed to rebuild.

We appreciate your interest in our initial request and trust that this revised request will be received in the same manner. May God continue to bless our efforts as we continue on this journey to recovery.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Governor

Johnny B. Bradberry  
LA DOTD Secretary